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## Items of Interest:

**Lyme Disease.** Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is spread by ticks. You may develop Lyme disease if you are bitten by an infected tick. If the tick remains attached to the skin for 36 to 48 hours, you are at greater risk for developing the disease. Symptoms include development of a circular rash and flulike symptoms, such as body aches, fatigue, and mild fever. Lyme disease can be cured by antibiotics, as long as the disease is diagnosed and treated at an early stage. To prevent Lyme disease, wear clothing that covers the majority of your body. When outdoors for an extended period of time, check body and clothing for ticks. Remove ticks promptly and contact your physician for medical assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000670.htm>.

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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## CNO Admiral Mike Mullen's Message to the Fleet: All Ahead Full

**From Adm. Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations**

**WASHINGTON** — I am deeply honored and humbled to begin my tour of duty as your Chief of Naval Operations. As I do, I ask you to join my wife, Deborah, and me in expressing our gratitude to Admiral and Mrs. Vern Clark for their five extraordinary years at the helm of the greatest Navy in the world.

I see three principal challenges facing us in the years ahead. First is the need to sustain the current readiness we worked so hard to achieve. Second is the need to build a fleet for the future, one of the proper size and mix of capabilities to deter or defeat the enemies we may face tomorrow. And third, no less important than the preceding two, is the need to transform our personnel system. Our Navy can never be better than its Sailors, but it can deliver for those Sailors an accession, assignment, distribution, and education system every bit as modern and sophisticated as they are.

These three challenges now comprise my major strategic priorities. I intend to use *Sea Power 21* and all its supporting tenets as a framework to attack each one and to serve as the blueprint for our continuing transformation.

**War Fighting.** The Navy is first and foremost a fighting, sea-going service -- always has been.

**Jointness.** Defending freedom today requires a real commitment to supporting the combatant commanders and our fellow services, agencies, allies, and partners. It requires teamwork.

**Naval Character.** I was struck by the story of Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Brian Alaniz of San Antonio, Texas, who in the early days of



**ANNAPOLIS, Md.** - Adm. Mike Mullen delivers his remarks after relieving Adm. Vern Clark as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). Clark's tenure as CNO began July 21, 2000, making it the longest term served by any CNO since Adm. Arleigh Burke resigned in 1961. Mullen last served as Commander, Joint Forces Command Naples, and had operational responsibility for NATO missions in the Balkans, Iraq, and the Mediterranean. U.S. Navy photo by Ken Mierzejewski

the Iraq war lost part of a leg trying to rescue a wounded Marine from a minefield. When asked later on the Oprah Winfrey Show if he considered himself a hero, Alaniz responded simply, humbly, "I was only doing my job." That is Naval Character -- Navy-Marine Corps teamwork at its finest -- and I con-

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## Naval Hospital Rota Personnel Support NASA's Launch of the Discovery Mission, Space Transport System (STS-114)

By Lt. John B. McCombs, U.S. Naval Hospital, Rota, Spain Public Affairs Officer



MORON AIR FORCE BASE, Spain — Members of USNH Rota, Spain NASA Space Shuttle Support Team and astronaut Lt Col George Zamka USMC. U.S. Navy Photo provided by Lt. John B. McCombs, U.S. Naval Hospital Rota, Spain, Public Affairs Officer

**ROTA, Spain** — Seventeen personnel from U.S. Naval Hospital (USNH) Rota, Spain assisted the launch of the Space shuttle Discovery on July 26. Hospital personnel joined members of the Air Force, emergency crews, host nation personnel, and security crews in Moron, AFB, Spain, forming the Department of Defense Manned Space Shuttle Support Team.

The team assisted in the launch of STS-114 and her seven NASA Crew members.

For 20 years, USNH Rota has partnered with the DoD Manned Space Flight Support (DDMS) Office and has helped the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) with health service support during all space shuttle launches. USNH Rota plays an important role in our Nation's space shuttle program. The DoD and NASA developed an agreement for DoD to provide assistance to NASA in the re-

covey of astronauts during the launch phase should an emergency occur. One of the launch abort options is a Transoceanic Abort Landing (TAL) where the Space Shuttle would land at an overseas location.

The Space Shuttle support team includes two physicians, one medical regulator, two nurses and one Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for each astronaut to stabilize and treat crewmembers. All space shuttle support team members receive a special certification by attending the DDMS/NASA Space Operations Medical Support Training Course. DDMS and NASA place critical importance on the readiness of the personnel who support the Manned Space Flight mission CONUS and especially OCONUS. Without a viable TAL site the shuttle could not launch. This is an important cooperative mission to USNH Rota personnel and the nation as a whole.

## Navy Pharmacist's Mate Honored at Dedication Ceremony of Naval Health Clinic, Quantico

By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Public Affairs

**QUINTICO, Va.** — Naval Medical Clinic Quantico was renamed the John Henry Balch Naval Health Clinic during a dedication ceremony Thursday, July 21. The clinic is part of Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCBQ), Va.

Under a humid and hazy sky, Lt. Cmdr. J. Lynch, Master of Ceremonies, welcomed clinic and base personnel, and honored guests to the dedication ceremony. Among the honored guests was Dr. Clyde Balch, nephew to John Henry Balch, and his family.

Not long after the beginning of World War I, Balch answered the call to serve the nation by enlisting in the Navy. He served as a Navy Corpsman, then a Pharmacist Mate, and after he received his medical training, Balch was assigned to the Sixth Regiment Marines at MCQB. .

Navy Surgeon General Vice Admiral Donald Arthur, MC, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, stressed the long-standing commitment Navy corpsmen have to providing the finest medical treatment to those in need.

"Every time someone yells 'corpsman up', the call is answered by competent medical help that has been the cornerstone our Navy corpsmen's promise to serve, as in the example of the pharmacist's mate John Henry Balch," he said.

Balch received a Medal of Honor for his courageous service at the battle at Vierzy, France, when he risked his life to save his fellow Sixth Regiment Marines wounded in battle. He exposed himself to machine-gun and high explosive fire, leaving his dressing station to provide medical treatment to fallen



**QUINTICO, Va.** — Col. J. M. Lowe, commander, Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCBQ); Navy Surgeon General Vice Admiral Donald Arthur, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Capt. Jane Przybyl, command officer, John Henry Balch Naval Health Clinic, Quantico; and Dr. Clyde Balch and family present the commemorative plaque honoring Dr. Clyde's uncle, John Henry Balch and the medical care he provided while he served with the Sixth Regiment Marines during World War I. U.S. Navy Photo by Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Public Affairs

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## Dental Technicians Fighting Plaque in Iraq

By Lance Cpl. Joel Abshier, 2nd Force Service Support Group

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** - More than 30 Sailors with 2nd Dental Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group (FSSG), completed a field exercise conducted here July 11-27.

The Sailors used the field as an office to conduct actual dental work on Marines to help familiarize the dental technicians with the equipment they will be using in Iraq when they deploy for Operation Iraqi Freedom III, according to Navy Capt. Andrew D. Peters, dental detachment commanding officer with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 2nd FSSG.

"We are here to serve the Marines so they can continue to do their jobs well," Peters said. "Our job is to measure operational dental readiness for everyone deploying to Iraq."

The mission of these Sailors is to utilize the authorized dental allowance list (ADAL). The list is compromised of new dental equipment specifically being used by dental technicians in Iraq.

The ADAL equipment is pertinent to service members in the field because it is lightweight and easily maneuverable, according to Dental Technician 3rd Class Raymond A. Vaclavik with the 2nd Dental Battalion, 2nd FSSG.

Throughout the training exercise, Marines routinely had their teeth cleaned in the field by dentists who were using the ADAL equipment.

"We had real patients come throughout the day to have their teeth cleaned, cavities filled and checkups," said Vaclavik.

By training technicians in this environment, the Sailors will be more knowledgeable in how to conduct field dental techniques once in Iraq, according to Peters.

Once the sailors' boots hit the Iraqi sand, they will be prepared because the gear they are training with in garrison is already waiting for them there, Peters explained.

"Marines will get their teeth taken care of differently while in the theater," Peters said. "However, the quality in the dental care will be the same."



**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.**— Dental Technician Jamal Hawkins (left) and Navy Lt. John Kim (right) work on patient Pfc. Darrin L. Ortiz during a field exercise here July 25. More than 30 sailors with 2nd Dental Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, used the field as an office to conduct actual dental work on Marine patients to help familiarize the dental technicians with the equipment they will be using in Iraq when they deploy for Operation Iraqi Freedom III. *USMC Photo by Lance Cpl. Joel Abshier, 2nd Force Support Service Groups*

## CNO Mullen Remarks continued..

(Continued from page 1)

sider it a national treasure. I will work closely with the Commandant of the Marine Corps to ensure our team stays strong and relevant far into the future and that we live up to the character and devotion Brian Alaniz displayed for "his Marines."

People. You, the men and women of the United States Navy, Sailors all -- active, reserve, and civilian -- are its lifeblood. You are the world's best, and I am committed to your growth and development.

Leadership and Accountability. I fundamentally believe that within each and every one of us lies the capacity to lead. No matter where we stand in the chain of command, we all have a responsibility to de-

velop our leadership potential and that of the Sailors in our charge.

The American people expect much from us. They expect us to command the seas and to stay the most powerful Navy in the world. They expect us to defend their freedom, taking the fight to the enemy -- whoever and wherever that enemy is. Moreover, they expect us to conduct ourselves always with honor, to live up to the legacy left us by Navy heroes past and present.

I believe we are meeting these high expectations every day, but we will not rest. We have both the great privilege and great responsibility of serving our nation at a critical time, confronting the most demanding security challenges in history. Our ability to overcome those challenges will affect not only America's freedom, but also the

freedom of millions of other men and women the world over. Our enemies will not rest, and neither can we. We must move out swiftly, deliberately, boldly.

As I take the helm from Admiral Clark, I do so with the full understanding that such boldness cannot succeed without your support. I need your ideas. I want your ideas. When I visit you, tell me what you think. This is your Navy. I will listen. I will learn. And I will lead. But I will need your help to do all three. It is time to remove the stops and open the throttle.

To read Admiral Mullen's remarks in full, visit <http://www.navy.mil/palib/cno/speeches/mullen050723.txt>.

## Dental Technician and Hospital Corpsman Job Ratings Merge

By Christine A. Mahoney, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** – In order to provide Sailors and Marines with the finest in medical operational readiness, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) announces the merger of Dental Technician (DT) and Hospital Corpsmen (HM) job ratings into the HM rating. The approval was signed by Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Mullen, July 25, 2005.

"The DT/HM merger combines forces to better meet the demands and needs of our changing Navy. When the merger is completed it will allow us to better support our operational forces by ensuring all enlisted medical personnel have the same baseline of training; by improving flexibility in the utilization of all enlisted manpower, and by improving career opportunities for all our Sailors. Our most important consideration during this process is the professional development and career enhancement of each and every member of the Hospital Corps," said Force Master Chief (FORCM) (SW/AW) Jacqueline DiRosa, Director, Medical Department Enlisted Personnel, BUMED.

Nearly 3,000 DT and 24,000 HM active and reserve personnel will be

affected by the ratings merger. BUMED has been proactive in preparing these two Navy Medicine communities. "In Sept. 2004, BUMED hosted a Hospital Corps Summit in conjunction with the Naval Medical Education and Training Command to review the current HM and DT 'A' school curriculums to plan for needed changes and develop an implementation strategy," said DiRosa. "I made certain I got a lot of our junior Sailors and senior enlisted in both the DT and HM communities involved in working groups. They, in turn, took the message out to the fleet."

Training for Sailors newly recruited into the Hospital Corpsman field will combine both HM and DT job ratings skills. "There will be changes starting with the HM and DT 'A' schools. The revised HM 'A' school training plan incorporates foundational dental knowledge, skills and abilities. These classes will be added while keeping the HM 'A' school length to 14 weeks," said DiRosa. "Upon completion of HM 'A' school, designated personnel will attend a follow-on dental assistant school to train in specialized dental assisting skills. Hospital Corpsman training and education will continue at our Great Lakes, Ill., medical

training facilities until otherwise decided."

Current DT and HM rated Sailors, and their commands, are responsible for conducting education and training on each respective medical field to ensure they achieve operational readiness. "Current DT and HM Sailors need to review the DT and HM rate training manuals and learn from them. Some DT and HM basic skills training can be conducted at the local command level. Commands should make certain these Sailors know what they need to know concerning DT and HM fundamentals and basic skills."

The DT/HM rating unification is expected to take place over the next two years. Once complete, all Navy Medicine DTs and HMs will be known as the HM community.

**Please note:** a NAVADMIN message will be forthcoming officially announcing the actual effective date of the ratings merger and the specifics regarding combined advancement exams, selection boards and rating badge change requirements.

For additional information on the ratings merger, please visit the HM/DT community web page at the Center for Force Health Protection via NKO.

## Navy Medical Practitioners Complete Residency

By Douglas W. Allen, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Public Affairs Office

**CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** - Eleven Navy Family Practice residents, three Navy dental residents and two Sports Medicine fellows graduated from their respective programs at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton (NHCP) July 1.

NHCP is one of only five Naval hospitals with a training program for Family Practice doctors.

"We typically have 36 doctors here learning their craft - 12 doctors in each of the three years of the program. This allows us to graduate 12 residents each year. Many of these doctors go to overseas and operational billets," said Capt. John Holman, NHCP Family Practice Residency Program Director.

A Navy family practice doctor's typical career path consists of a one-year internship at a naval hospital upon graduation from medical school. Then, some

serve in the fleet for two or three years and return to a Naval hospital for their two-year residency to become Family Practice doctors. Others stay at the hospital, immediately beginning the residency program and finish training in Family Practice in three years.

Navy dentists are licensed upon entry to the Navy and can immediately begin treating patients in dental clinics around the Navy and Marine Corps. They elect to attend a residency program voluntarily to gain advanced training and experience, according to Capt. Vlasta Miksch, director, NHCP General Practice Residency Program.

The dental residency program at NHCP trains general dentists in specialty care diagnosis and treatment in addition to managing patients in a hospital environment.

All graduates of the NHCP dental residency program will be assigned to operational units with the Navy or Marine Corps.

## Medical Service Corps Celebrates 58th Anniversary

By Andre Sobocinski, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Office of the Historian and Navy Medicine Magazine

**WASHINGTON** — The Navy celebrates the 58<sup>th</sup> year of its "newest" staff corps, Aug. 4. During this time, the Medical Service Corps has emerged as the integral mechanism in the Navy Medical machine. As we mark another year of the Corps' growing tradition of



In July 1941, legislation authorized the temporary appointment of commissioned officers in the Hospital Corps. Picture shows industrial hygiene officers at Colombia University in August 1942. U.S. Navy Photo by BUMED Office of the Historian, Photo Archives

excellence, let us not forget the true origins of this Corps.

With the outbreak of World War II, the Navy's need for skilled medical managerial officers was resolved by appointing temporary commissions to individuals trained in administrative and scientific specialties. Some 1,429 individuals, mostly from the ranks of the enlisted, were appointed Hospital Corps officers. Their wartime roles were spent demonstrating expertise in medical operational planning, procurement, accounting, food service, personnel management, and facilities maintenance. Additionally, over 800 Naval Reserve officers were brought on board with the designation of hospital volunteer specialists (H-V(S)).

The work of these Hospital Corps officers proved so invaluable that following the war, when the nation had shifted into an era of defense and demobilization, Surgeon General Clifford Swanson, MC, USN, sought to maintain this cadre of knowledge and talent by establish-

ing a permanent commissioned grade for "Medical Administrator" in the Hospital Corps and a "Medical Associated Sciences Corps" within the Navy.

On August 4, 1947, The Army-Navy Medical Services Corps Act was signed into law by President Harry Truman.

The personnel of the Navy's Medical Service Corps were limited to 20 percent of the authorized strength of the Medical Corps. The new officers of the Medical Service Corps served in one of four specialty sections: Medical Allied Sciences, Pharmacists, Optometrists and Supply and Administration.

Today there are some 2,560 Medical Service Corps officers serving the Navy in over 22 specialties, on multiple platforms.

Today, 87 Medical Service Corps officers are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. As we celebrate 58 years of dedication and professionalism of this corps, it is their service we should remember.

## Balch Dedication Ceremony continued...

(Continued from page 2)

Marines and continued treatment to the wounded for a 16-hour period. On Oct. 5 of the same year, Balch also exhibited his unyielding commitment to providing medical care to injured Marines at Somme-Pay where he established an advanced

dressing station under heavy shell-fire.

"During World War I, while serving in the field with the Sixth Regiment Marines, Balch was doing the same mission that corpsmen are doing today, helping Marines. Eighty-seven years ago this month, John Henry Balch risked his life to help the Marines in action at Viernzy, France," said Capt. Jane Przybyl, commanding officer, John Henry Balch Naval Health Clinic Quantico, MCBQ. "We are here to look back on that day and honor this courageous corpsman who took care of Marines. We are also here to pay tribute to the corpsmen of today, who train to go into harms way with Marines."

The John Henry Balch Naval Health Clinic Quantico opened five years ago in July 2000 and serves a patient population of 127,000.



Balch receives the Congressional Medal of Honor from RADM F.B. Bassett, at the Chicago, IL YMCA in September 1919. Photograph was donated to the Naval Historical Center in 1974 by CDR John Balch, USN (Ret)

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